FBI's Hoover Awaits Wiretaps Ruling

By Drew Pearson

agents are worried that U.S. visitors were entertained. Judge Oliver Gasch will rule

that J. Edgar Hoover has to testify in the s e n s a tional case of bugging art the Sheraton-Carlton Hotel, involving the c onversations of Bobby Baker, former Secretary of



Pearsou

the Senate and righthand man to Sen. Lyndon Johnson.

Hoover himself is reported them, has spent much of his Hoover. career as a public prosecutor. and prosecutors lean toward Will FBI Be the FBI.

But, meanwhile, there are Prosecuted? some amazing developments in the eavesdropping on Bobby Black, the ment went before the Su-case against Baker. preme Court to make the em-General.

The FBI is not exactly hold-listened in on conversations in to ten years in jail. ing its breath, but some of its the VIP suite, where foreign

interested in learning that for three months, Feb. 7 to April 25, 1963, every remark they made in suite 434-36 was listened to by American agents

da, where it placed the equivalent of 125 wire taps, in collaboration with the Central Telephone Company of Nevada, also a defendant.

It should be noted in fair. 24 hours a day.

This was that it picked up conversation a criminal violation. in the neighboring VIP suite.

not to be losing any sleep. He he had engaged in wire tap- which is in charge of enforcstrait-laced public servant who world is having the laugh on sition of prosecuting an arm tice Department has nullified calls the shots as he sees the United States—thanks to of the Justice Department, the

Another important develop-Baker and his friend Fred ment in the Bobby Baker case public relations is the fact that the FBI has man who has won a new trial now violated his constitutional because the FBI romped over rights. This has been officially

bugging of the Sheraton-Carl tutional rights. The latter is a been made before, though ton is that the FBI agents also felony with a punishment up long suspected.

because Fred ness that FBI men are ex- in about 30 days, when Hoov-Black's suite was next door tremely efficient and carry er reaches his 72d birthday on 438-440 — and the eavesdrop- out orders. They should not Jan. 1. ping equipment which the blamed personally. Never-FBI installed was so strong theless a criminal violation is

How J. Edgar Hoover and Note-This year President the Justice Department are Tito of Yugoslavia fired the going to get around this law listening in on his conversa-Vice President of Yugoslavia, violation remains to be seen. Aleksander Rankovic, because For the Justice Department, FBI. In Nevada this is not the lating his constitutional rights case because state law is involved. But, in the District of Columbia, Federal law is involved and the Justice Department is entrusted with enforcing it.

Hoover's Charmed Life

The Justice Department is him. his constitutional rights. Black stipulated by William O. Bitt- now under Acting Attorney had been convicted of tax eva-man, Justice Department at-General Ramsey Clark, an eavesdropped conversation sion, until the Justice Depart-torney who is contesting the able young man who took are involved of which the Jusover when Nicholas Katzen-tice Department has sorted Reason for the stipulation bach was transferred to be out only 34 pages recording barrassing confession that J. was that the Justice Depart-Under Secretary of State. Baker's conversations. But Ba-Edgar Hoover had been eavesment was trying to dodge the There has been speculation ker's lawyers have not been dropping and wire tapping for fact that J. Edgar Hoover has that Katzenbach's new job permitted to review the balyears, apparently without the got himself in a position was due to the fact that he ance of the eavesdropped knowledge of the Attorney where FBI can be prose approved the public confes evidence to see whether they cuted either for housebreak-sion of Hoover's wire tapping are getting the whole truth. One development in the ing or violation of consti-Such an admission had never @ 1966, Bell-McClure Syndicate, Inc.

So far Hoover has led a visitors were entertained.

These visitors will now be interested in learning that for It should be noted in fair- have another decision to make

> Ironically Hoover has put himself in the position of probably saving the prosecution of the President's onetime friend Bobby Baker by tions.

> This is because Baker's attorney, Edward Bennett Wiltice Department has nullified its case against Baker by viothrough eavesdropping.

The Justice Department counters by arguing that it listened in on only eleven of Baker's conversations and that these were not important to the income tax indictments subsequently brought against

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